

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 24, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. No new issues requiring a new search have been introduced. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the New Abstract is objected to. In response, the New Abstract and the Examiner's suggestion have been reviewed, and Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. It is respectfully submitted that the New Abstract does not require any amendment and is clear on its face. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the New Abstract respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the specification as amended the prior Amendment filed on March 15, 2007, is objected to. Upon review, it appears that this prior amendment is incorrect and does not relate to the present specification. Accordingly please disregard the reference to amending paragraph on page 3, between lines 4-8 of the specification noted in the prior Amendment filed

on March 15, 2007. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting this discrepancy, and withdrawal of this objection to the specification is respectfully requested. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance with the figures.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of lack of labels in boxes of FIGs 1-2, 5 and 11. In response, labels have been added to boxes of FIGs 1-2, 5 and 11. In addition, a resistor R_s has been added in series with the diode 17 in FIG. 5, as described in the specification, such as page 2, line 30 to page 3, line 3, and page 6, line 28 to page 7, line 5. Further, FIG 11 has been amended to delete reference numerals 63, 34 and 65, as well as to delete box 63, in conformance with the specification, such as page 10, lines 15-26. Replacement sheets including FIGs 1-2, 5 and 11 are enclosed. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

In the Final Office Action, claim 9 is objected to for certain informalities. In response, claim 9 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 9 is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 9 and 11 have been amended to remove the alleged informalities noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9 and 11 would be allowable if the rejection thereto is overcome and rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 9 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. However, Applicants have not rewritten claims 9 and 11 in independent form, since it is believed that independent claims 1, as well as claims 7 and 12, are allowable over Uchida for at least the following reasons.

In the Final Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No, 6,272,024 (Uchida). Further, claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over

Uchida. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are patentable over Uchida for at least the following reasons.

As correctly noted on page 6 of the Final Office Action, Uchida does not teach or suggest "a diode is directly coupled in parallel to the primary winding for demagnetizing the transformer during the off-time of the switch, the on-time and the off-time of the switch being predetermined," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 12. The Final Office Action, on pages 6-7 state that:

This difference, however, is not of patentable merit since it is believed that the circuit of Fig. 1 disclosed by Uchida is capable of working properly without the surge suppressor [17, 18], or in other words, the surge suppressor [17, 18] and its function of absorbing the surges that develop across the transformer primary winding [8] can be omitted if not desired.

It is respectfully submitted that the fact that something is not needed for operation is irrelevant for patentability. The fact remains that Uchida does not teach or suggest the particular diode connection required by independent claims 1, 7 and 12, and there is no apparent reason in the prior art for one skilled in the art to suggest such a diode connection which demagnetizes the transformer

during the off-time of the switch. Rather, Uchida teaches to connect additional elements besides a diode in parallel to the primary winding, namely, the capacitor 17, resistor 18 and another resistor 20. Thus, Uchida teaches away from a diode which is directly coupled in parallel to the primary winding.

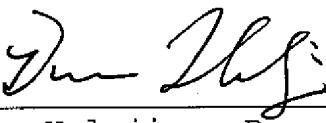
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 7 and 12 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-18 should also be allowed at least based on its dependence from independent claims 1, 7 and 12.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

PATENT
Serial No. 10/541,987
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of May 24, 2007

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 3, 2007

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (3 sheets including FIGs 1-2, 5 and 11)

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